



NEA Alert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Erectors Association Testifies in Support of Negotiated Rulemaking

Washington, D.C.

The **National Erectors Association** testified June 27, 1996 before a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee in support of Negotiated Rulemaking. The hearing was held to consider the reauthorization of the Negotiated Rulemaking Act. Negotiated Rulemaking is a process through which parties affected by a proposed federal regulation are brought together to debate and draft the regulation through consensus. At the urging of the NEA and the Iron Workers International Union, the Negotiated Rulemaking process was used recently to draft the proposed revision to the OSHA Subpart R Steel Erection standard.

In his testimony before the subcommittee, NEA Director of Membership Services Eric Waterman stressed that the value of Negotiated Rulemaking lies in its inclusion of all those who will have to work with a proposed rule. "Our contractors and their skilled craft workers make their livelihood in the construction industry and we happen to think we know what regulations make sense more than a federal standard writer who may never have worn a hardhat or walked on a construction project," he stated.

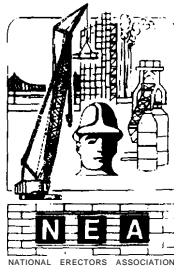
In its testimony, the NEA also stressed the value of using Negotiated Rulemaking for other proposed rules and in other industries. "The NEA believes that the use of Negotiated Rulemaking could be greatly expanded. When the federal government needs to develop a new standard or revise an existing one, strong consideration should be given to establishing a Negotiated

Rulemaking Committee for a period of 12 months. Even if the Negotiated Rulemaking committee does not come to consensus within a year, they will have brought to focus and identified the key areas for federal standard writers to resolve later in the process, ” said Mr. Waterman.

The NEA and the Iron Workers International Union worked for almost ten years to get approval for use of Negotiated Rulemaking for the revision to the Subpart R Steel Erection standard. The OSHA Steel Erection Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee, on which the NEA was a participating member, formally concluded its revision to Subpart R on December 1, 1995.

The National Erectors Association is a national trade association of union contractors dedicated to providing its members with the highest level of labor relations and safety services and the promotion of positive labor-management programs in the construction industry.

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